

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW
SUBJECT: GDR INTERVIEW ON "PROVOCATIONS" AGAINST GDR PERMREP IN BONN.

1. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN NEUS DEUTSCHLAND (ND) JAN.
25, GDR AMBASSADOR, DR. MICHAEL KOHL COMMENTS ON RECENT
"PROVOCATIONS" AGAINST THE GDR PERMREP IN BONN. KOHL
REPORTS THAT THE GDR REPRESENTATION HAS REGISTERED AN IN-
CREASE IN INCIDENTS DIRECTED AGAINST IT FROM 230 IN 1975
TO 988 IN 1976, INCLUDING THE FIRST HALF OF JANUARY, 1977.
ACCORDING TO KOHL, THE 1976 INCIDENTS INCLUDED 21 BOMB THREATS,
18 DEATH THREATS, AND 6 KIDNAPPING THREATS.

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2. KOHL ATTRIBUTES THIS INCREASE TO A SUPPOSED STEPPED-UP
ANTI-GDR CAMPAIGN IN FRG MASS MEDIA AND AMONG CERTAIN
POLITICAL GROUPS IN WEST GERMANY. KOHL STATES THAT THE
GDR FAVORS THE CONTINUATION OF A POLICY OF PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE WITH THE FRG, BUT REJECTS FRG ATTEMPTS TO
DISREGARD GDR SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERFERE IN ITS INTERNAL

AFFAIRS. KOHL NOTES THAT RECENT INCIDENTS HAVE MADE THE WORK OF THE GDR REPRESENTATION MORE DIFFICULT. HE CONCLUDES THAT THIS FACT, PLUS THE FRG'S PRACTICE OF CALLING EXISTING TREATIES INTO QUESTION, MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GDR TO CONTINUE NORMALIZATION WITH THE FRG.

3. COMMENT: GDR MEDIA HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO RECENT ATTACKS ON THE GDR REPRESENTATION IN BONN AND REPORT ON KOHL'S PROTEST TO STATE MINISTER WISCHNEWSKI AGAINST THE JAN. 23 GAS BOMB ATTACK AGAINST THE REPRESENTATION BUILDING. KOHL HAS BEEN CALLED TO EAST BERLIN FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE MATTER. GDR MEDIA TREATMENT OF THESE REPORTED "PROVOCATIONS" IN BONN COINCIDES WITH ITS CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FRG REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

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